



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Thankfulness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

13th November 2020

Diary Dates

19th November: **Happy Bag Collection**

30th November: **Occasional day (school closed)**

1st December: **Christmas Decoration Day (children can wear Christmas jumpers)**

4th December: **Non-uniform Day. Bring in a bottle or chocolate.**

14th December: **Reward Day and last day to bring in 'Jolly Jars'**

15th December: **Christmas Service**

16th December: **Christmas Dinner**

17th December: **Christmas Parties**

18th December: **Christmas Raffle**

On our last newsletter we wished everyone a happy and safe half term break and we were all expecting to be back in school on 2nd November. Since then school has been closed for a week and we are now back into a national lockdown. This must just serve as a reminder to us all how quickly situations can change and how essential it is that each and every one of us continue to follow government guidance. Decisions to close schools, or 'bubbles' within schools, are not made by the school; they are made by Public Health England in order to keep the whole community as safe as possible. Please can we remind all families of the importance of informing the school without delay should any children or family members display symptoms or require testing; it is important that we act swiftly should a case arise. Out of school hours, we can be contacted via:

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

Once again, we feel immensely proud of how our children and families engaged in their home learning during the week of closure. Teachers worked hard to ensure that the full curriculum was covered during the period of closure ensuring that valuable learning time was not lost. Across all classes, the children's responses via Seesaw or Tapestry were simply amazing. Thank you for working with us to ensure your child makes the best possible progress. Later in this newsletter, is a poem to remind us all of how important this home-school relationship is.

It has been wonderful to have the children back in school this week – and such a busy week too! On Wednesday, it was Remembrance Day and today is Children In Need; we have been delighted to be able to raise funds to support both. All the classes have settled quickly back into their learning and there has been a lovely 'buzz' around the school. Thank you for your continued support.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Left We Forget

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 3rd September 2020 to Friday 18th December 2020

HALF TERM Break - Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October 2020

Occasional Day (SCHOOL CLOSED) - Monday 30th November 2020

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 26th March 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 15th February 2021 to 19th February 2021

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 13th April 2021 to Tuesday 20th July 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021

Bank Holiday (School Closed) - Monday 3rd May 2021

School Meals

To order school meals, please log onto your School Gateway account via the website or the app.

DINNER MONEY FEES £2.70 per meal



Merits were awarded to:

Ademidun, Mia A, Reggie, Poppy F, Demi, Jake, Jessica, Poppy C, Elizabeth, Isabelle, Astrid, Oscar, Harlee, Danny, Rosie, Archie, Lily-Anne, Phoebe, Ray, Theo, Austin and Seth



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Ademidun, Ethan R

A Thought to Share:

Lord of justice, Lord of mercy,
We cry out to you, longing for the day
When warfare and violence will cease
And poverty and injustice be no more:

Almighty God,
Grant that those exercising power here on earth
use it for the common good,
for the establishing of justice
and the protection of the weak and vulnerable,
mindful that one day they will be called to account before you the God of righteousness and compassion, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible Reading

“And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant. Their seed standeth fast, and their children for their sakes. Their seed shall remain forever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.”

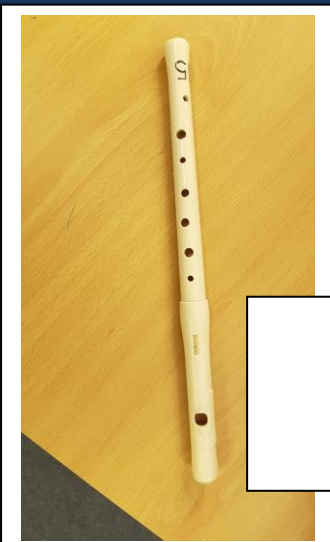
The Apocrypha, Ecclesiasticus, Chapter XLIV, Verses 9 to 14 (King James Bible)

Notices

Unity

*I dreamed I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools used,
Were books and music and art.
One, a parent with guiding hands,
A gentle and loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled,
With a touch both deft and skilled.
The parent laboured side by side,
And all the values filled.
And when at last their task was done,
They looked at what they'd wrought.
The beautiful shape of the precious child,
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed it would have failed,
If one had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, home*

By Ray A. Lingenfelter



Violins Looking for a New Owner!

We are looking for a good home for these violins. Mrs Crowley thinks they are half size. One is broken and the other needs new strings but does have a bow. Any donation or even just a good home. Please speak to Mrs Crowley if you are interested.



Fifes for Sale

Please see Mrs Crowley if you would be interested in purchasing a fife (pre-flute). £5 each.

Notices

Official Opening of the New Play Equipment

We were delighted that members of our school council were invited to attend the formal opening of the new playground equipment with our local MP Stephen McPartland. This took place the week before the half term break. We are lucky to have such a lovely public space right next to our school and look forward to our children being able to enjoy using it.



CONGRATULATIONS

We are delighted to share the happy news of the safe arrival of baby Holly on 22nd October. We are sure that you would wish to join us in sending our warm congratulations and very best wishes to Miss O'Brien and her family.



Remembrance Day



This week in school, we have been thinking about Remembrance Day. All classes have painted poppies onto rocks, and, on Wednesday 11th November, each class visited the war memorial. They laid their rocks around the memorial before sharing a moment of Remembrance with their class.

Children read poems and prayers and, as usual, made us very proud in their respectful and thoughtful responses. As a school, we observed the 11am silence on our school field. We would encourage you to take a visit to the war memorial to see the wonderful display of Rocks of Remembrance.



Notices

House Winners

Well done to **Churchill House (Blue)** who are the house winners for last half term. Once again, it was a close competition with Churchill taking the lead by just seven points.



Social Distancing

Adults coming onto the playground are encouraged to wear facemasks. Should you choose not to do so, it is especially important that you ensure that you maintain your distance from others. We have had several complaints about adults not wearing masks approaching others (children, parents and staff) and being too close. Please respect other people's safety at this difficult time.

Thank you.



ASTON GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Please sell as many tickets as you can for our Christmas Raffle. Each child was given three books of tickets to take home; if you need more, please ask at the office. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 18th December.

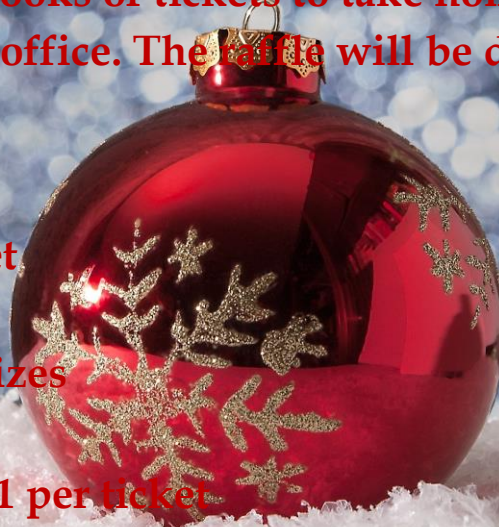
1st Prize: £250 Cash

2nd Prize: Amazon Fire Tablet

3rd Prize: Luxury Hamper

Plus many other amazing prizes

£1 per ticket



Class News

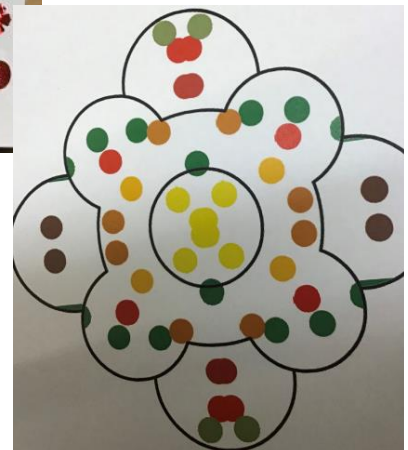
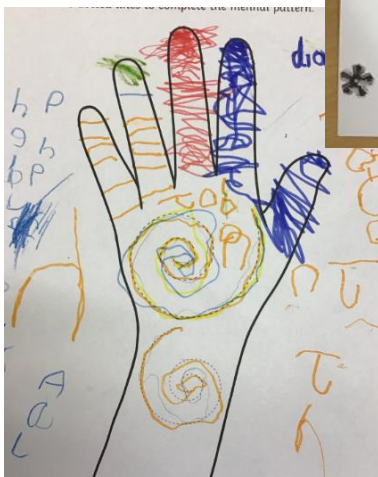
Shackadell Class

It's so lovely to have the children back this week. Thank you so much for all the work sent through, we loved looking through it each day and could see how much effort and hard work the children were still putting in, even though they weren't in school.

We had some wonderful rockets and firework pictures sent in as we began our "into the sky" topic. As well as many robots made to help us learn our 'r' sound.

This week in our topic lessons, we have been learning about Remembrance Day and the Hindu festival Diwali. In maths, we have been learning all about comparing measures of weight and length.

We can't wait to do so many more exciting things this half term!



Class News

Peartree Class



What a strange start to this half term!

I want to say a huge thank you for all the hard work you and your children did during the first week via Seesaw.

Our new geography topic this half term is all about the local area and we will be going on a village walk to discover the features of Aston village. We will also be looking at the changes in our seasons along the way which ties in with our science.

In RE, our learning question is 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?' and the children brought in some lovely posters about what Christmas meant to them and all the different traditions people have. We also talked about what some people do during this holiday period that do not celebrate Christmas.



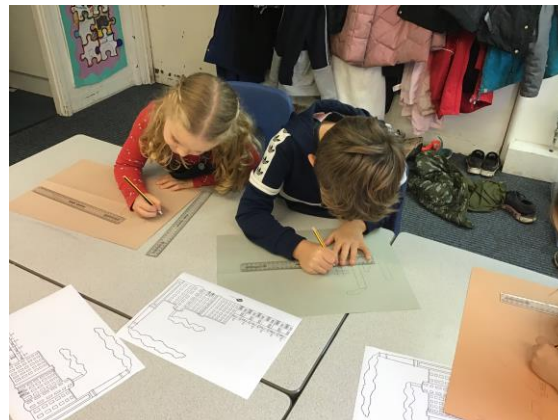
Class News

Orchard Class

On the Friday before half term, we had an Art day in Orchard class! It was a great day that we enjoyed a lot. We learnt all about the artist Lowry and his style of paintings. We created a city painting in his style. We learnt how Lowry only used the primary colours: red, blue and yellow, and black and white in his paintings. So, we began the day by exploring mixing these colours and creating our own backgrounds for our city. Following that, we spent the rest of the day drawing our landscapes of building and creating matchstick figures. We were so pleased with our finished work; it was really effective!

Last week we did some fantastic learning from home. In English, we looked at the poem 'A Child's Thought' by Robert Louis Stevenson. We thought about the vocabulary used in the poem and had a go at writing some of our own poems. We also learnt about equal, greater than and less than in our Maths, which we worked really hard on.

This half term, our new topic is about Antarctica. Last week, at home, we began to learn about where Antarctica is and what it was like. We wrote our own fact files using the information we learnt. This week, we have started to learn about Robert Falcon Scott and his journey to the South Pole. We are really looking forward to learning more about this topic and our next few weeks of learning!



Class News

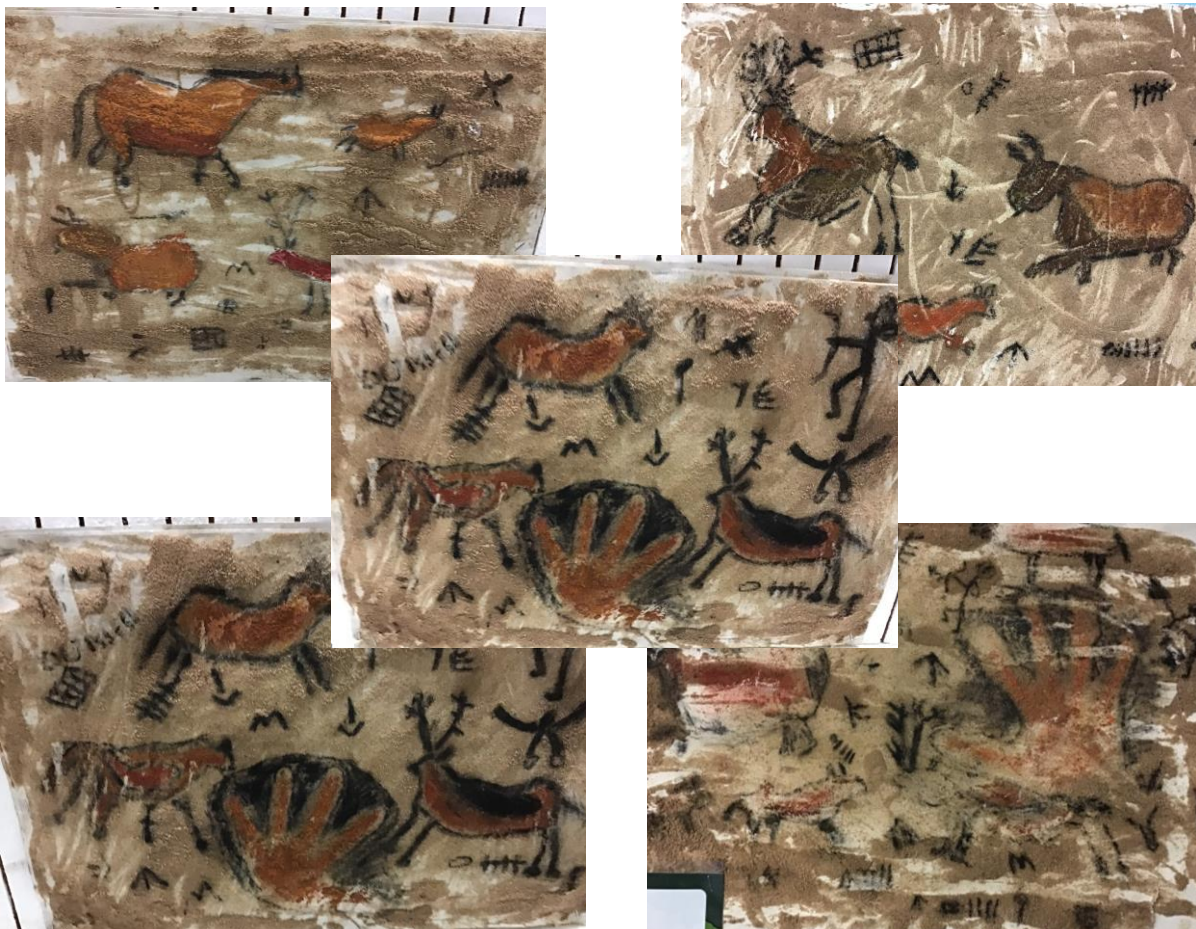
Haffydown Class

Firstly, I would just like to echo what I said in my video on Seesaw last Friday. I was amazed with all the hard work that the children put into their home learning and their positive, motivated attitude. Thank you for all your help at home with making Seesaw so successful in supporting children with their learning.

We are especially inspired by our new English unit based around the beautiful text called 'Leon and the Place Between'. We will be writing our own persuasive posters encouraging audiences to visit the greatest show on earth. Next week, we will be building towards writing our own circus portal stories.



Before half term, we enjoyed our cave painting inspired Art day. We created authentic backgrounds using sand and PVA to achieve a rough texture. Next, we used charcoal to sketch the outline of the animals and figures copied carefully from the examples. Lastly, we used earthy coloured pastels and blended them with a brush. Look at some of our wonderful artwork!



Class News

Danes Class



We were very impressed by how the children engaged with the home learning set last week. In English, our focus was Remembrance poetry; the children produced some fantastic pieces – including this poem written by Astrid:



He was a young soldier a hero in every way,
But let's not forget that he fought for us every day,
He would fight in the fields where the poppies used to grow,
Nobody wanted to fight with the foe,
I guess that's what life is like you just never know.



He was a young soldier nearly ready to go to his grave,
Nevertheless, we still remember that all the soldiers are brave,
We remember the animals that helped fight for our country,
We remember the soldiers who fought whether it was rainy or sunny.

He is now an old soldier,
About to pass away,
It shows how grateful we are to be here today,
It doesn't mean we have forgotten about the men that lived long ago,
In fact, we have a moment of silence to show that they are not alone.

Both of us feel so lucky to have such wonderful children in our class and are so glad to be back in school with them all this week!

Just before half-term, we enjoyed a whole day of Art. We focused on developing our sketching skills using a range of drawing pencils. We began by using different pencils to experiment with creating lighter and darker tones. We then went on to practice different techniques to create texture. After that, we learnt how to use shade and tone to represent 3D objects. We finished the day by creating a final piece to apply all our new skills. We each drew an Egyptian death mask, linking our artwork with our 'Awesome Egyptians' topic.

